Today, U.S. Congressman John Campbell (R-California) and House Republican Leaders introduced the Semper Fi Act of 2008 to rescind over \$2 million in hidden earmarks for Berkeley, California in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill, and to transfer the funds to the Marine Corps. U.S. Senator Jim DeMin... Today, U.S. Congressman John Campbell (R-California) and House Republican Leaders introduced the Semper Fi Act of 2008 to rescind over \$2 million in hidden earmarks for Berkeley, California in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill, and to transfer the funds to the Marine Corps. U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R- South Carolina) introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Cosponsors of the legislation include Republican Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio), Republican Conference Chairman Adam Putnam (R-Florida), Republican Conference Secretary John Carter (R-Texas), Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Duncan Hunter (R-California), and U.S. Congressman and decorated combat veteran and war hero Sam Johnson (R-Texas).

The action by the Berkeley City Council indicates that they have a disdain for and do not appreciate Marines for what they do and have done for this country, our democracy, and our freedoms. If they have so little respect and understanding of that, there is no reason for the rest of us, outside the city of Berkeley, to subsidize their actions with our taxpayer funds," Campbell concluded.

"Berkeley needs to learn that their actions have consequences. Patriotic American taxpayers won't sit quietly while they insult our brave Marines and try to run them out of town," said Senator DeMint. "Berkeley City Council members have shown complete ingratitude to our military and their families, and the city doesn't deserve a single dime of special pet project handouts."

[&]quot;The Marine Corps has been protecting Americans and our freedoms for 233 years," said Congressman John Campbell.

[&]quot;Americans understand and appreciate that. You don't have to join the Marine Corps, or even like it, but you should at the very least let the Marines do their job and respect them for it.

Last week, the City Council of Berkeley voted to oust the Marine Corps Recruiting Station from their downtown office. The City Council of Berkeley also voted to give the radical protest group Code Pink a parking space to protest the Marine Corps and urged them to "impede, passively or actively" the work of Marine Corps recruiters.

One earmark provides \$243,000 in taxpayer dollars for the organization Chez Panisse to create gourmet organic school lunches in the Berkeley School District. Chez Panisse is dedicated to "environmental harmony" and their menu features "Comté cheese soufflé with mâche salad," "Meyer lemon éclairs with huckleberry coulis;" and "Chicory salad with creamy anchovy vinaigrette and olive toast."

Another earmark would spend \$975,000 in taxpayer dollars for the University of California in Berkeley Matsui Center for Politics and Public Service, to create a new endowment and cataloging the papers of Congressman Robert Matsui. UC Berkeley currently already has a \$3.5 billion endowment.